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assembly comprising a lid having an upper surface and a lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob body on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob body and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, said thermometer being rapidly responsive to temperature changes within the cooking vessel, and being removable from said knob body by lifting the thermometer therefrom to facilitate cleaning.

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21. A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein said probe comprises a thin-walled, hollow tubular structure, said bottom end containing a temperature sensing device communicating with the gauge.

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22. A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein said lid assembly further comprises a movable member supporting said thermometer.

Remarks

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Becker for the courtesy extended in connection with the interview of May 22, 2001.

Claims 1 and 7, which had been rejected, have been cancelled.

The office action mailed November 22, 2000 rejected claims 1 and 7, but indicated that claims 2-6 would be allowable provided that claim 2 be rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 2 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1 at the time of the rejection, and accordingly is believed to be allowable, along with dependent claims 3-6. Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled.

New claims 20 - 22 are also submitted to be allowable.

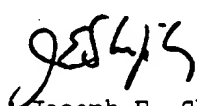
For the reasons set forth above, reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested.

A marked-up version of the claims follows.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

2. (Twice Amended) A cooking vessel [in accordance with claim 1] comprising a pan, a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having a generally convex upper surface and a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob assembly on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel wherein said knob assembly includes a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle body.

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